

the pregnant minor of the consequences of making a false declaration. The reason I believe that this is necessary is because the attending physician is required under the bill to report all declarations to the proper authorities, the Health Department, and/or law enforcement officials, in accordance with the provisions set forth in LB 769. I believe that a pregnant minor should have the opportunity to be fully informed of the consequences of making such a declaration. If fully informed, she may decide that it is better to inform her parents personally rather than make a false declaration to avoid notification. Without such information, great harm to relations could result from an investigation conducted after the abortion is performed which is based on a false declaration made by a traumatized minor. In absence of any abuse at home, the law should encourage a pregnant minor to seek help from her parents instead of creating further divisiveness and conflict in family relations. And I was not convinced that LB 769, in its present form, was doing that. I would also like to state that, too, what I am asking for, in just summarizing again for you, the provisions that I am asking for you to support are the provisions set forth in 28-711 and 28-372, which would do just that. It would be the law authorities and/or the Health Department, and it just sets out the provisions for how that information would be provided. In closing, I would just say that I don't want to infer that all young women would lie or give false declaration, in other words, to protect themselves, and for those who are in situations of abuse, we would want the protection and assistance in those actual cases for that young person, who may, indeed, be in a position of risk. So as far as I am concerned, my amendment can do nothing but good, regardless of which side you are on this issue, and I hope, people in the body, that you are not going to vote based on the fact that one senator said something that someone else took offense at. The other day I took offense at something in here, and, you know, we can't just vote on the fact that someone said something about us as a group because sometimes we do that about each other. I am not sure but what maybe something has been said by all of us about members of the body, maybe not publicly but at some point in time, collectively. I just believe that this is an amendment that is going to make the bill a better bill for both sides of the issue, and I would ask for you to support it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Smith amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.